## **CLAIMS**

We Claim:

1) A process for preparing tropenol (I):

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optionally in the form of an acid addition salt thereof, said process comprising: reacting a compound of formula (II)

wherein

10 R denotes a group selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylenephenyl, each of which may be substituted by hydroxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, optionally in the form of an acid addition salt thereof or a hydrate thereof, in a suitable solvent with a formamide-acetal of formula (III)

15 wherein

R' denotes  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl and R" denotes a group selected from  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylene-phenyl, to obtain a compound of formula IV

$$R" \xrightarrow{N} O \xrightarrow{N} H$$

$$Q \xrightarrow{N} O \xrightarrow{R} O$$

$$Q \xrightarrow{N} (IV)$$

wherein R and R" are as defined above;

decarboxylating the compound of formula (IV) to obtain an ester of formula (V)

$$\bigvee_{N}^{\mathsf{Me}} \mathsf{H}$$

- wherein R is as defined above; and saponifying the compound of formula (V) to obtain the compound of formula (I), which is optionally converted into an acid addition salt thereof by reaction with a suitable acid.
- 2) A process according to claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (II) R denotes

  C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkenyl, optionally in the form of an acid addition salt

  thereof or a hydrate thereof, and wherein in the formamide-acetal of formula (III)

  the groups R' represent methyl or ethyl and the groups R" represent methyl, ethyl or
  propyl.
- 15 3) A process according to claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (II) R denotes 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, 1-buten-1-yl, 1-buten-2-yl, 1-buten-3-yl, 1-buten-4-yl, 2-buten-1-yl or 2-buten-2-yl, optionally in the form of an acid addition salt thereof or a hydrate thereof, and wherein in the formamide-acetal of formula (III) the groups R' and R" represent methyl or ethyl.

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- 4) A process according to claim 3, wherein in the compound of formula (II) R denotes 2-buten-2-yl.
- 5) A process according to claim 3, wherein in the compound of formula (III) R' and R" represent methyl.
  - A process according to claim 3, wherein in the compound of formula (II) R denotes 2-buten-2-yl and in the compound of formula (III) R' and R" represent methyl.

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